

## The Intelligencer.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1877.

ENGLAND is about to commence, if she has not already inaugurated, a system of compulsory education, which meets with strong opposition from the Established Church, but is encouraged by dissenters.

THE St. Louis Globe-Democrat has printed several useful articles on the subject of cheap schoolbooks. It alleges that exorbitant prices are now charged for the most ordinary books, and instances in particular the common primer. The price for which this book sells is twenty-five cents; the estimated cost of it to the publisher is a little over six cents.

SOME of the younger western cities have had a very prosperous year, and print the reports of their "boards of trade" with just pride. Minneapolis, for instance, ground and shipped during 1876 a million barrels of flour, and sent 200 million feet of lumber. Kansas city shows an increase of 30 per cent in her bank clearings, marketed 6,000,000 bushels of corn and 1,800,000 of wheat, about 100,000 head of cattle, 150,000 hogs and 6,000 sheep, there being a large increase in all these respects.

THE Republicans of Cincinnati are contesting the late election on the grounds of Democratic frauds. They have unearthed an enormous mass of fraud. One of the repeaters, Eph Holland by name, has squealed. Tilden in his letter of acceptance said: "What the country wants is a real reformer." Eph was one of the reformers. In his confession he said: "I had a man from Chicago named Barnes, with a gang of twelve men, and a man named Ferguson, with a gang of eight men, and Mike Gleason, from New York, with eighteen men, who cast in all about 500 Democratic votes."

## THE LEGISLATURE.

## HOUSE.

WHEELING, Feb. 22.

House met at 9 A. M.

Prayer by Rev. J. McK. Kelly.

On motion of Mr. Henderson the reading of yesterday's journal was dispensed with.

Mr. Henderson, from the Committee on Arts, Sciences and General Improvements, reported back, without recommendation, House Bill No. 185, to provide for the inspection of bridges, and for the better protection of life and property against accidents arising from steam boiler explosions.

House Bill No. 186, concerning house-breaking and burglary, was passed as amended by the House.

Mr. Ferguson, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported House Bill No. 195, concerning the assessment of taxes, to pass.

Mr. McCallister offered a petition of 236 citizens of Monongahalia county, asking for a charter for a narrow gauge railroad from Blacksville to Clarksburg.

Mr. Largent, presented the petition of 220 citizens of Morgan county, asking for an enactment of a law for the better protection of game against foreign hunters and sportsmen. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

On motion of Mr. Steadman, Resolved, That no smoking be allowed in the Hall of the House of Delegates.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Ferrell, announced the passage of House Bill No. 107, for the relief of the personal representatives of Noah H. McCallister.

Engrossed House Bill No. 18, to amend the charter of the city of Charleston, Kanawha county, was read a third time and passed.

The vote on the resolution to extend the present session of the Legislature was then announced, as follows: Ayes 52, noes 11.

Mr. Hearn was appointed to inform the Senate of the adoption of the resolution by the House and ask their concurrence therein.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:

Engrossed House Bill No. 88, to authorize the construction of sidewalks within one mile of any incorporated town in this State, and to protect the same.

House Bill No. 91, concerning vacancies in the Hospital for the Insane.

House Bill No. 143, prescribing the duties and fixing the compensation of Presidential Commissioners.

House Bill No. 174, in relation to the fees of Sheriffs and other officers.

House Bill No. 154, to grant additional power to the Fairmont and Palatine Bridge Company.

House Bill No. 131, in relation to State taxes.

House Bill No. 137, to establish the Salt Sulphur Asylum, was read a third time and rejected.

House Bill No. 142, to provide for the collection and disbursement of school moneys in the independent school district, in Wirt county.

House Bill No. 155, legalizing the sale of the third story of the building known as the Washington Hall, in the city of Wheeling.

House Bill No. 152, authorizing the Washington Hall Association to increase its capital stock. To take effect from its passage.

House Bill No. 98, to donate certain lands to the Jefferson County Agricultural College.

House Bill No. 105, to amend and reenact the school law of the State, relative to the Board of Education.

House Bill No. 151, relating to fees of Attorneys.

Mr. Quarrier offered a resolution, requesting Alfred Beckley, at 7 o'clock this evening, to read Washington's farewell address. Adopted.

A message from the Senate, by Senator Henderson, announced the passage by the Senate of Senate Bill No. 28, to regulate the deposits of the State.

Also, Senate Bill No. 31, fixing the number of Justices to be elected in every Magisterial District.

Leave of absence for three days was granted to Mr. Barr.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Adams, announced the passage of House Bill No. 182, to refund \$75 to Wm. M. Ferguson, for taxes erroneously assessed.

Also, by Mr. Ferrell, announcing the passage of House Bill No. 121, for the relief of Noah Stanta.

On motion of Mr. Siple the House took a recess until 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House met at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Hiett, from the Committee on Executive Officers, submitted the report of that committee.

The following Senate bills were read a second time and ordered to a third reading:

No. 72, to provide for the incorporation of associations that may be organized for the purpose of constructing railroads, maintaining and running the same.

No. 24, authorizing the construction of booms and dams.

No. 29, to extend the time in which distraint and sale may be made for taxes and fee bills.

No. 37, to impose a tax of 50 cents on every suit commenced in a County or Circuit Court. On motion of Mr. Ferguson the bill was laid on the table.

No. 61, relating to clerks of courts.

No. 63, to protect the birds and game. Laid on the table.

No. 54, to authorize Samuel George, of Brook county to remove the remains of the dead from a certain lot of ground owned by him.

No. 24, in relation to enforcing decrees and rules, and docketing judgments, &amp;c.

No. 57, relating to courts of limited jurisdiction.

No. 57, concerning the administration of county affairs.

No. 59, to amend the school law of the State, so as to allow the Secretary of the Board of Education thirty days to report assessments to the Auditor.

Senate Bill No. 28, authorizing the incorporation of mutual fire insurance companies.

No. 79, authorizing the Governor to appoint a State chemist, fixing his compensation and prescribing his duties.

Senate Bill No. 27, relating to the rate of interest for the loan of money, as amended, was ordered to a third reading.

The amendments offered by the Senate to House Bill No. 149, to exempt the tools of mechanics from forced sale, was agreed to and the bill as amended passed.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Burdett, announced that the Senate had adopted the resolution to extend the present session of the Legislature, with the following amendment: Strike out Saturday, March 3d, and insert Friday, March 2d.

On motion, the House agreed to the amendment, and the resolution as amended, was adopted.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Caldwell, announced the passage of House Bill No. 152, to authorize the Washington Hall Association to increase its capital stock.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Scott, announced the passage of House Bill No. 153, authorizing the sale of the old state of the building known as the Washington Hall.

Also, by Mr. Kirtley, announced the passage by the Senate of House Bill No. 165.

Mr. Chancellor, from the Joint Committee to investigate the charges preferred against Capt. W. L. Bridges, Superintendent, and Frank W. Brown, Clerk, of the State Penitentiary, submitted the report of that committee. The committee reported that the charges were not sustained.

Mr. McCallister, from the same committee, submitted a minority report, recommending that the Superintendent be censured for making individual contracts, where the State was interested.

Also, that by reason of inaction, the Superintendent is incompetent to perform the duties of his office. The reports were ordered to be printed in the Journal.

On motion of Mr. Hearn, the House took a recess until 7 o'clock.

## SENATE.

Senate met at 9 A. M.

On motion, the reading of the journal was dispensed with.

A message from the House of Delegates was read, announcing the passage by that body of House Bills Nos. 41, 119 and 120, and asking the Senate to concur therein.

Also, by Mr. Hall, announcing the agreement of the House to the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 95.

The following bills were read a third time and respectively acted upon:

House Bill No. 107, to pay \$287 46 to the personal representative of Benjamin H. McCallister.

Senate Bill No. 21, to amend the law relative to the compensation of Prosecuting Attorneys—amendments of the House agreed to and the bill passed.

Senate Bill No. 28, to regulate the deposits of the State funds and to secure interest thereon.

A message from the House, by Mr. Hearn, announced the passage by that body of House Joint Resolution No. 16, extending the session of the Legislature to Saturday, the third day of March.

House Joint Resolution No. 5, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State, was then taken up and on motion of Mr. Adams the resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. Dennis offered a resolution, that the pages be allowed the same mileage as members. Adopted.

House Bill No. 76, authorizing the city of Parkersburg to purchase the grounds of the Wood County Agricultural and Mechanical Association for city park purposes, was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

The following bills came up on their second reading:

Senate Bill No. 97, relating to the Summit Point Turnpike Co. Indefinitely postponed.

House Bill No. 88, concerning volunteer companies in the State. Rejected.

House Bill No. 85, relating to the boundary line of Virginia and West Virginia, was ordered to a third reading.

House Bill No. 121, for the relief of Noah Stanta, one of the sureties of D. J. Keeney, late Sheriff of Jackson county. The rules were suspended and the bill read a third time and passed.

House Bill No. 182, appropriating \$74,61 to Wm. M. Ferguson, for taxes erroneously assessed, was taken up and on motion of Mr. Adams the bill was read a second and third time and passed.

House Bill No. 65, providing for the working of the convicts in the Penitentiary. The bill was read a first time and the rules were suspended, and the bill read a second and third time and passed.

On motion, the Senate took a recess until 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Senate met at 2:30 P. M.

Mr. Tarr, from the Committee to Investigate the Penitentiary, submitted the report exonerating the Superintendent and Clerk from all charges against him.

Mr. Scott, from the same committee, submitted a minority report.

On motion of Mr. Newlin, the reports were laid on the table.

The following bills were read a first time:

House Bill No. 110, to amend section 13, chapter 47 of the Code. Referred to the Committee on Counties, Districts and Municipal Corporations.

House Bill No. 100, authorizing the County Court to construct roads, on petition of a majority of the resident land-owners along and adjacent to the line of said road. Referred to the Committee on Counties, Districts and Municipal Corporations.

House Bill No. 18, in relation to the charter of the city of Charleston. Reference of the bill dispensed with and the bill read a second and third time and passed.

House Bill No. 152, authorizing the Washington Hall Association to increase its capital stock, was read a first second and third time, and passed.

House Joint Resolution No. 8, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State, was then taken up and on motion of Mr. Adams the resolution was laid on the table.

The following bills were read a first time and passed:

House Bill No. 153, authorizing the sale of the old state of the building known as the Washington Hall.

Also, by Mr. Kirtley, announced the passage by the Senate of House Bill No. 165.

Mr. Chancellor, from the Joint Committee to investigate the charges preferred against Capt. W. L. Bridges, Superintendent, and Frank W. Brown, Clerk, of the State Penitentiary, submitted the report of that committee. The committee reported that the charges were not sustained.

Mr. McCallister, from the same committee, submitted a minority report, recommending that the Superintendent be censured for making individual contracts, where the State was interested.

Also, that by reason of inaction, the Superintendent is incompetent to perform the duties of his office. The reports were ordered to be printed in the Journal.

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Mr. Dennis offered a resolution, that the pages be allowed the same mileage as members. Adopted.

House Bill No. 76, authorizing the city of Parkersburg to purchase the grounds of the Wood County Agricultural and Mechanical Association for city park purposes, was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

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